



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY COMMISSIONER JAVIER SOUTO DISTRICT 10

Happy Holidays

God Bless America



We will never forget
September 11

Dear Neighbor:

I wish you a very happy Holiday Season. I would like to explain some important changes that will impact the residents of Kendall and Westchester in the near future. County Commission District 10, has expanded and now includes many new neighborhoods (like Fontainebleau, Royal Green, Calusa, Coral Haven, Greenbriar, and the City of Sweetwater) and has also lost many existing neighborhoods to other Commission districts. Every new decade, following the completion of the new population census count, all County Commission districts must be redrawn to reflect the changes in population and to make certain that every commissioner represents an equal number of residents. The process of redrawing district lines or reapportioning the population into districts composed of an equal number of residents is required under the U.S. Constitution and has been upheld by the federal courts. During the past 10 years the population growth in Miami-Dade County has been in the Western portions of the County, therefore all the commission districts shifted West, Northwest and Southwest as the new districts were drawn. The new boundaries of County Commission District 10 are depicted in the map in the last page (Please see map on the back cover to determine if you are in Commissioner Souto's new district). It has been an honor and privilege to have served all the residents of District 10 over the past eight years. It is with great sadness that I am losing many neighborhoods, where together we have worked to improve the quality of life through beautification projects, road re-paving projects, drainage projects, crime prevention activities and transit improvements. I welcome those new neighborhoods that were previously in Commission District 11 and Commission District 12, and will officially become part of District 10 on January 1, 2002. I will serve you with the same dedication that I have served all the neighborhoods of District 10.

Allow me the opportunity to introduce myself to the new residents of District 10, and to reintroduce myself to those of you who currently reside in District 10. I have served all of the new areas of my district either as a member of the Florida House of Representatives from 1984 to 1988, or as a State Senator from 1988 to 1992. I was first elected as the Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 10 in April 1993, and reelected without opposition in 1994 and 1998. I am proud of my reputation throughout Miami-Dade County as a public official who demands government efficiency, accountability, and quality municipal services for residents throughout Miami-Dade County.

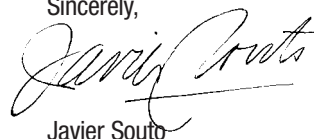
I strongly believe in improving the quality of life for residents without causing them to suffer economically. I will exhaust all alternatives prior to supporting any proposal that directly impacts the taxes of the residents

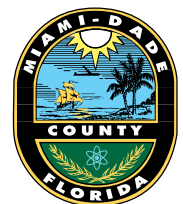
of Miami-Dade County. Government finances should be used wisely.

My legislative priorities have always included public safety, consumer protection, and preserving the quality of life for the community that I serve. I believe that government's main responsibility should be to provide security for its residents, especially for youth and children. This is why I sponsored legislation requiring Miami-Dade Public Libraries to install filtering software to prevent access to pornography on Internet terminals at Miami-Dade County Libraries by children. I have written anti-drug and drug paraphernalia laws to protect our children. Following Hurricane Andrew, I drafted legislation to protect homeowners from unscrupulous general contractors who fail to pay the subcontractors and material suppliers for home remodeling projects, which could lead to liens being placed on the innocent home-owner's property. I also sponsored a law requiring all retail establishments in Miami-Dade County to install display screens on their cash registers, allowing consumers to view their transactions as the retail merchandise is being charged. You now see these display screens on all cash registers, even at fast food restaurant drive-throughs. I initiated the Mini-Urban Forest Program with elementary and middle school students, allowing them to reclaim abandoned vacant lands by planting trees. I have created parks (Soccer Complex Park), improved parks (Tropical Park), illuminated parks (Concord Park, West Dade Library Park, Barnes Park), and devised a funding mechanism (Friends of the Parks Foundation); all of this to bring more and better parks to our citizenry. Additionally, I drafted two laws offering residents of Miami-Dade County greater protection against noise pollution. Finally, I was instrumental in establishing the Bird Road Max, a public transit service providing express service for the residents of Westchester to select destinations like Metrorail, Baptist Hospital, and Dadeland Mall.

I hold a **Town Meeting** the second Thursday of every month at the West Dade Regional Library (9445 Coral Way, 2nd Floor), and the fourth Thursday of every month at the Winston Park Club House (8100 SW 132nd Avenue) at 7:00 PM (Except in August and legal Holidays). Please feel free to contact me to discuss anything that you desire. I pride myself on being accessible to my constituents. The best to you and your family. Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,


Javier Souto



Map of new District on back cover



Commissioner Souto meets with residents of Horse Country to listen to their concerns.



Saturnino Urrutia helps keep District 10 clean and free of graffiti and trash by collecting abandoned tires, shopping carts, furniture, etc. He also maintains the litter cans installed by Commissioner Souto throughout the District, as well as paints over any graffiti vandalism that he finds in District 10.



Commissioner Souto reads to young children at the West Dade Regional Library.



Commissioner Souto and Mara Austin from the County Solid Waste Department address concerns of residents at one of the Commissioner's town meetings.



Commissioner Souto with an officer of the Miami-Dade Mounted Police Unit. The Commissioner secured an additional \$200,000 in this year's budget for police patrolling (mounted horse patrol, bicycle patrol, regular patrol and undercover surveillance) of Tropical Park.

How the Budget For Fiscal Year 2001-2002 Impacts the Residents of District 10

The Board of County Commissioners worked with Mayor Alex Penelas to adopt a budget that reduces the combined millage rate (property tax rate) for the fourth consecutive year, with a combined millage rate that is lower than any year since 1984-85. For those residents that live in neighborhoods with sewer services provided by Miami-Dade County, the County will reduce your retail wastewater rates by 25 percent for the first 3,750 gallons of consumption per month in 2002, which translates into an average savings of \$21.64 per year.

This year's budget includes \$8.25 million to fund the continuation of the "Safe Streets" initiative for targeted policing initiatives in the unincorporated areas. Through the current budget year, the County has invested over \$31.6 million in targeted specialized police services. Miami-Dade County now has crime rates for homicides and robberies that are lower than any year since 1979.

Funding has also been provided within the Library budget for 8 new branch libraries and 8 new mini-libraries to provide services to under-served areas of the County and to purchase new books and materials for our existing libraries.

The Save Our Seniors Program which provides property tax relief to our most needy senior citizens, saving the average household \$207 annually, has been retained in this year's budget. The Golden Passport program which provides over 43,000 needy senior citizens with free transit passes, has also been retained in this year's budget. There is \$6 million in the budget for securing bonds to construct affordable housing for senior citizens in Commissioner Sosa's, Commissioner Barriero's and Commissioner Souto's district.

In addition, the budget includes funding for a Coral Way Max express minibus service, and a Sweetwater Shuttle has also been added to the express minibus service.

The County will also issue a \$50 million bond to fund the Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program, which provides capital improvements like sidewalk repairs, neighborhood signage projects, small scale traffic calming projects to reduce speeding in residential neighborhoods, enhancement projects for existing parks, and landscape improvement projects, that enhance the quality of life for residents of the unincorporated area neighborhoods. Commissioner Souto secured funding out of the Quality Neighborhood Improvement Program for the following projects in his old district:

- French drains and overall drainage improvements throughout District 10.
- Major drainage projects in the unincorporated neighborhoods bounded by the Palmetto Expressway, SW 67th Avenue, Flagler Street and the Palmetto Expressway.
- French drains in St. Brendan Church Neighborhood (SW 87th Avenue from SW 24 Street to SW 40 Street).
- French drains and overall drainage improvements in the neighborhood around SW 82nd Avenue between SW 8 Street and 24 Street.
- French drains and overall drainage improvements for the neighborhood bounded by SW 72nd to 76th Avenue from SW 56 Street to 64 Street.
- Retrofit of two drains for Snapper Creek Lake Subdivision 91st Avenue and 87th Street.
- Traffic calming devices for the Horse Country area and other neighborhoods in District 10.
- Completion of road paving projects south of Bird Road.
- Construction of bicycle paths on all major roads where the right-of-way is sufficient to accommodate these bicycle facilities in District 10.
- Completion of all the soccer fields for the Kendall Soccer Park at SW 127th Avenue and SW 80th Street.



Commissioner Souto next to a vacant lot owned by the Miami-Dade County Transit Department on Bird Road and 89th Avenue. With the help of Federal HUD, local HUD and MDTA a new residential complex for senior citizens will be constructed there soon.



Commissioner Souto next to one of the 35 litter cans that his office purchased and installed at bus stops throughout his district in order to eliminate the large volume of litter found around these bus stops. Commissioner Souto's office not only purchased these litter cans, but his office also maintains these trash cans on a regular basis. The volume of litter around these busy bus stops has been significantly reduced and this has helped reduce flooding along several major roads, by reducing the volume of litter that clogs the storm water drains on these roads.

Commissioner Souto Takes Steps to Protect Our County & Reinvigorate Our Economy Following the September 11th Terrorist Attack on the United States

On September the 11th, an act of war was perpetrated against our nation. As President George W. Bush said in his address to the Joint Session of Congress on September 20th, "Our nation has been put on notice: We are not immune from attack."

Just as our federal and state governments have taken defensive measures against terrorism to protect Americans, so too has Miami-Dade County taken defensive measures to protect its residents. Following the September 11th terrorist attacks, Miami-Dade County has increased security to protect its major facilities, all our airports, our seaport, our water plants, and our information and technology facilities like our 911 system and our traffic control system.

Commissioner Souto sponsored legislation to improve security at our most sensitive Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department facilities which supply drinking water to the residents of our community. In addition to heightened surveillance and new security procedures with identification cards for persons that enter restricted areas, all personnel with access to sensitive areas must undergo a thorough security clearance investigation.

Commissioner Souto has also sought legislation in the State that would permit Miami-Dade County to conduct a national security clearance background check for all employees and private sector individuals allowed access to sensitive facilities in the County, which Representative Dan Gelber has introduced in the House of Representatives and Senator Alex Villalobos has introduced in the Florida Senate. The County is also pursuing state legislation to exempt government information systems, as well as building plans and blue prints for sensitive facilities from the public records law. Commissioner Souto also introduced a measure to increase security at all Park & Recreation facilities that are open to the public, as well as enhanced training for park rangers on detecting potential terrorist-related problems or activities.

In the aftermath of September 11, Miami-Dade County was amongst the hardest hit municipalities in the nation due to our extensive tourism, import/export industry and other aviation-related industries. The ripple effect has also hit the hotel industry, the restaurant industry, entertainment industry, taxi industry, retail sales, as well as some of our larger corporate employers, which have begun the first round of

layoffs. Many small businesses in our community are having a very tough time staying afloat. Our economy was heading towards a recession prior to the terrorist attacks, but the events of September 11th plunged our economy into a quicker and deeper recession than anyone could have imagined. Unfortunately, it is much more difficult to jump start the economy and get it headed in the right direction again. This is why Commissioner Souto sponsored legislation creating the Social & Economic Development Council. This think -tank composed of economists is

charged with the responsibility of developing a short-term and long-term plan to address the social and economic consequences of the downturn, and to reinvigorate the rate of economic development in our community. The short term strategy will be to provide the Mayor and the Board of County Commissioners with concrete measures to address the immediate economic crisis that resulted from the September 11th terrorist attack and assist the policy makers with actions to jump start

our economy. The resulting long term socioeconomic plan should aim at an increase in the per-capita income of the general population as well as the diversification of the local economy to insulate it from future downturns that result from impacts on a single sector such as tourism and travel. We need to develop industries that are not as sensitive to economic recessions as the tourism, international trade and the construction industries. As President Bush stated, we need to come together to take active steps that strengthen America's economy, and put our people back to work.



Commissioner Souto examines legislation impacting his district, during a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners.

Getting To Know Your Commissioner

Javier D. Souto, District 10

ON MIAMI-DADE TV CHANNEL 34

Or check your cable system for channel

The programs will be televised from 7:00 pm to 7:30
on the following dates:

January 16, 2002

May 15, 2002

February 20, 2002

June 19, 2002

March 20, 2002

July 17, 2002

April 17, 2002

Souto Seeks Tough Laws Against Drag Racing on Public Streets

In October, the Board of County Commissioners adopted a resolution by Commissioner Souto urging the Florida Legislature to amend Section 316.191 of the Florida Statutes to permit Miami-Dade County to adopt a County law that would increase the penalties for drag racing on public streets.

Commissioner Souto believes that drag racing on public streets by young motorists is a severe problem in Miami-Dade County that endangers not only the lives of the racers, but also the lives of innocent motorists, pedestrians and bystanders. Miami-Dade County has experienced numerous traffic fatalities, (six fatalities last year alone) and many more serious injuries resulting from young motorists drag racing on the streets of Miami-Dade County.

Florida Drivers between the ages of 15 and 24 accounted for 86,620 crashes or 25% of all the automobile crashes in the State of Florida last year. Even more alarming, young drivers between the ages of 15 and 24 accounted for 911 fatal crashes, a figure that represents 23.5% of all drivers in fatal crashes in the State of Florida last year.

It has become painfully obvious that current traffic penalties are not effective in discouraging young motorists from drag racing on public streets. Motorist who use our public streets for drag racing are subject to a traffic fine for speeding based on the number of miles over the posted speed. If the drag racing leads to a traffic accident, they can face a traffic fine for reckless driving. If the drag racing leads to the death of an innocent motorist, pedestrian or bystander, the person participating in the drag race could face criminal charges for vehicular manslaughter. However,

a criminal charge for vehicular manslaughter is too late, because an innocent life has already been needlessly taken. Since the current statutes regulating drag racing on public streets are not a deterrent to prevent these senseless tragedies and the State has failed to impose stricter penalties to discourage this type of criminal behavior, the local government has a responsibility to step in and impose stricter penalties in our own community.

In addition to all penalties prescribed under state law, Commissioner Souto proposes to increase local penalties for drag racing by imposing a fine of \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for a period of up to 90 days for a first offense and a fine of \$2,500 and/or imprisonment for a period of up to 6 months for a second or subsequent offense. The most important deterrent under the proposed law is that vehicles used in drag racing shall be impounded immediately by the police and the vehicle owner or lessor shall be responsible for all fines, towing fees, storage fees, and any other enforcement costs. The County or municipality may lien the vehicle and any real property owned by the violator in Miami-Dade County until all fines, enforcement costs, and administrative costs are paid by the violator.

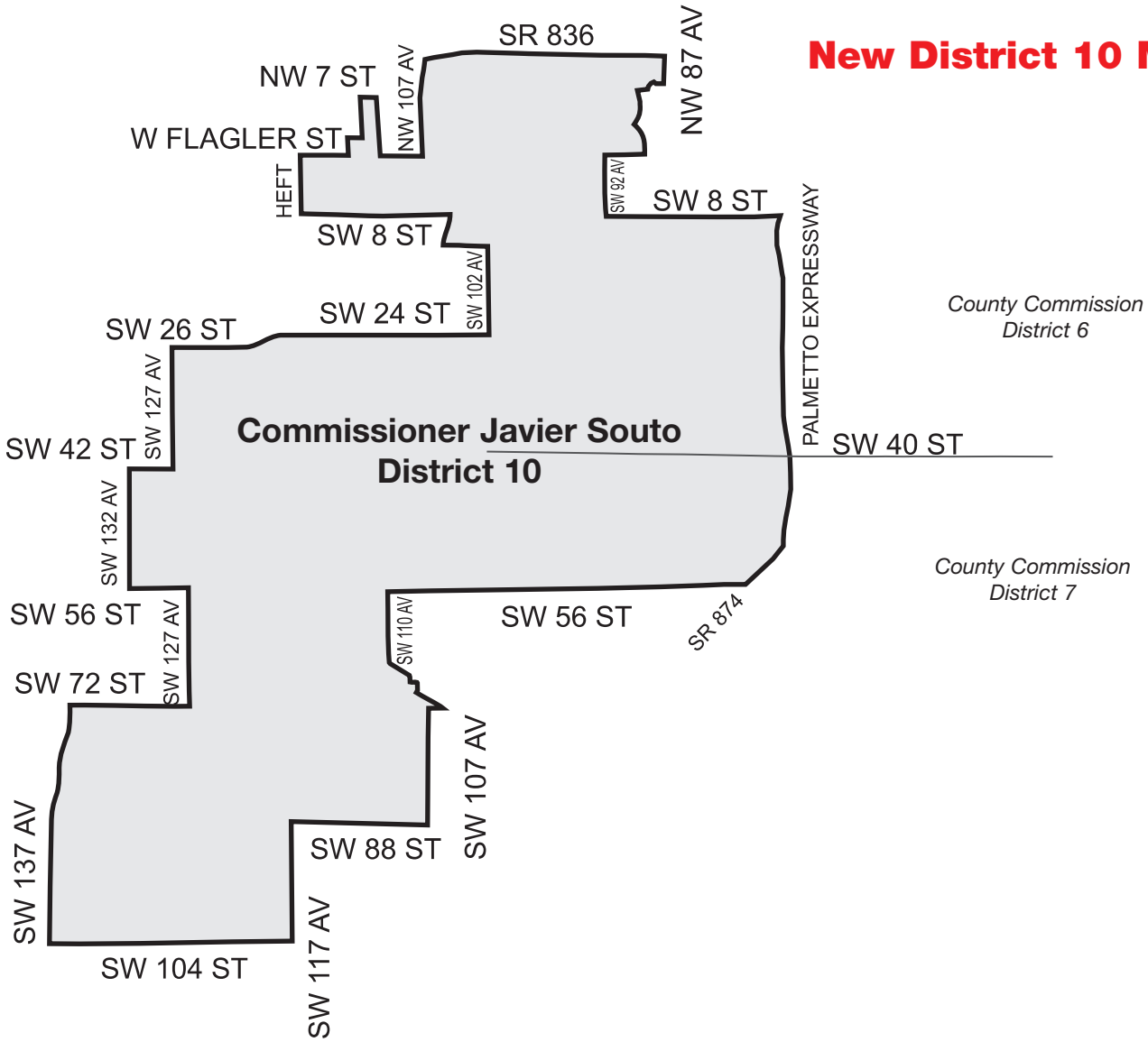
As a father of three and grandfather of six, Commissioner Souto understands that teenagers and young men and women have a fascination with sports cars and speed, but that is why these types of activities should be confined to appropriately licensed or duly authorized racetracks, drag strips or other designated areas set aside for such purposes with appropriate supervision for the safety and health of the participants.



The Citizen Wins... "Major Finished Projects"

- Obtained litter cans for bus stops for District 10.
- Passed law mandating commercial establishments to place litter cans near entrances.
- Passed law requiring commercial establishments to install bike racks.
- Created the Bikes on Buses and Bikes on Metrorail programs.
- Initiated the "Stolen Car Detection & Criminal Profile Program" at the Seaport.
- Obtained street sweeper trucks to clean Dade's streets.
- Secured \$4 million to build an Equestrian Center at Tropical Park.
- Secured County property earmarked for development as low income high density apartments for use as Soccer Park in Kendall.
- Purchased "Welcome to Westchester" and the "Welcome to Kendall" signs.
- Created the "Golden Guide to the Dade County Code" and the "Resident Guide to Local Services."
- Landscaped and beautified over 80 miles of district roads.
- Closed down two night clubs in district 10 that were havens for drugs and prostitution.
- Closed down every lingerie modeling studio and massage parlor in district 10.
- Secured \$2 million to extend the county water system into the Sunkist Estates neighborhood when vinyl chloride, a carcinogen, was found in their wells.
- Obtained a state grant to landscape the Palmetto (SR 826).
- Appropriated \$12,400 in funding to the Kendall Federation of Homeowners for the purchase of traffic radar devices.
- Created "Friends of the Metro Parks" program which was used to refurbish Sunset Park through private sector donations.
- Created "Friends of the Police" program which was used to open a privately funded police work station on Bird Road.
- Reformed County jail food service practices that were wasting millions of dollars on jail inmates.
- Obtained playgrounds for toddlers (tot lots) for Banyan Elementary School, Concord Park, Southern Estates Park in Village Green, and Sunset Park.
- Launched a new "Park Watch" program at Concord Park.
- Paved over 9 square miles or one third of the roads in District 10.
- Established an "Adopt-A-Road" program to permit local organizations and corporations to beautify roads in return for a sign on the road.
- Secured funding for major street drainage improvements for the neighborhoods near Kings Creek, Ludlam and SW 48th St., and SW 87th Ave. and 2nd St.
- Provided the Mildred Pepper Senior Center with \$150,000 to purchase new air-conditioned buses for senior citizens.
- Increased the frequency of the Metro Bus Route 71 from every 1 hour to every 1/2 hour.
- Directed County Manager to implement an alpha numeric system for identifying storm drains so that passing motorists can report clogged storm drains.

New District 10 Map



If you have any questions, please call our office: 305-222-2116 or 305-375-4835

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